

Withdrawn



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 257

AMENDMENT NO. A9
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S257-ANMa-1 [v.5]

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Amends Title [NO]
2nd Edition

Date _____, 2025

Senator Smith

1 moves to amend the bill on page 243, lines 44-45, by inserting the following between the lines:

2
3 **"PROVIDE SMALL FARMERS IN NORTH CAROLINA GRANTS TO ENSURE THE**
4 **FUTURE VIABILITY OF NORTH CAROLINA'S FAMILY FARMS**

5 **SECTION 10.3.(a)** Findings and Purpose. – The General Assembly finds that
6 decades of barriers to entry, rising land prices, and economic consolidation have led to the loss
7 of millions of acres of land farmed by small farmers. The General Assembly further finds that
8 financial assistance through targeted grants can help address disparities and contribute to the
9 long-term success of small farmers. The purpose of this section is to support the viability and
10 sustainability of small farmers in North Carolina by providing financial assistance to support
11 these farmers.

12 **SECTION 10.3.(b)** Chapter 106 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
13 Article to read:

14 "Article 61B.

15 "Small Farmers Support Grant Program.

16 **"§ 106-748. Definitions.**

17 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 18 (1) Commissioner. – The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- 19 (2) Department. – The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer
20 Services.
- 21 (3) Eligible individual. – A resident of this State who meets all of the following
22 criteria:
 - 23 a. Is at least 21 years of age.
 - 24 b. Is a small farmer.
 - 25 c. Had an annual income from farming operations for the preceding
26 taxable year of at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more.
- 27 (4) Small farmer. – A farmer with a gross cash farm income of one million dollars
28 (\$1,000,000) or less, as determined in a manner as the Department may
29 specify.

30 **"§ 106-749. Small Farmers Support Grant Program established.**

31 (a) Program Established. – The Small Farmers Support Grant Program (Program) is
32 established within the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to support current small farmers



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1 and to encourage the continued financial viability of those farmers in the field of agriculture. The
2 Small Farmer Grant Fund (Fund) is established as a special revenue fund. The Fund shall consist
3 of gifts, grants, and donations from non-State entities and General Fund appropriations for the
4 support of the Program established by this Article. The Fund shall be used for the provision of
5 grants to eligible individuals for essential inputs, equipment, and operational improvements to
6 their farming operations.

7 (b) Grants. – Grants from the Fund are subject to the following procedures and
8 restrictions:

9 (1) An eligible individual seeking a grant shall submit an application on a form
10 and in a manner approved by the Commissioner.

11 (2) The Commissioner may establish priorities for grants among all eligible
12 individuals based on criteria that include farm size, income levels, and
13 economic hardship, including lack of access to capital and operational
14 support.

15 (3) The Commissioner may establish tiered maximum grant amounts based on
16 financial hardship, demonstrated need, and other criteria the Department feels
17 will maximize the ability of the Program to increase the long-term viability
18 and sustainability of small farmers.

19 (4) The Commissioner may retain up to one percent (1%) of funds appropriated
20 to the Fund for administrative costs related to administering the Program.

21 (c) The Department shall establish an advisory committee to monitor the Program's
22 effectiveness and make recommendations for improvements.

23 (d) The Department shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this Article."

24 **SECTION 10.3.(c) Funding. –**

25 (1) The funds appropriated by this act to the Department of Agriculture and
26 Consumer Services for the NC Agriculture Manufacturing and Processing
27 Initiative shall be decreased by fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in
28 nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

29 (2) The funds appropriated by this act to the Department of Agriculture and
30 Consumer Services shall be increased by fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000)
31 in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and allocated to the Small
32 Farmer Grant Fund established in G.S. 106-749, as enacted by subsection (b)
33 of this section, to be used for the Small Farmers Support Grant Program.

34 **SECTION 10.3.(d)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2025.";

35
36 and further moves to amend the bill by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

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SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____